

Claims

1. A method for antigen independent activation of T cells comprising contacting T cells with a combination of cytokines.
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the T cells are contacted with at least two of the following:
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 - i) interleukin-2;
 - ii) interleukin-6; and
 - iii) tumour necrosis factor αor functionally equivalent fragments thereof.
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3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the T cells are naive T cells and/or memory resting T cells.
4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the
20 T cells are naive CD45RA⁺ cells and/or memory resting CD45RO⁺ cells.
5. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the concentration of interleukin-2 is from 100 to 400
25 U/ml, the concentration of interleukin-6 is from 400 to 600 U/ml and the concentration of tumour necrosis factor α is from 15 to 35 ng/ml.
6. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein
30 the concentration of interleukin-2 is from 200 to 300 U/ml, the concentration of interleukin-6 is about 500 U/ml and the concentration of tumour necrosis factor α is about 25 ng/ml.
- 35 7. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein T cells are activated *in vitro*.
8. A method for obtaining increased lymphokine production

from a T cell culture, comprising activating the T cells using the method of claim 7.

- 5 9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein T cells are activated *in vivo*.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the activation of th T cells *in vivo* leads to an enhanced immunological response.
- 10 11. A method of therapy comprising activating in a human or animal subject T cells using the method of claim 9 or 10.